



Office of the President

10/4/2021

From: Steve Shirley, President, Minot State University

Re: ARPA funds request

Minot State thanks you for the opportunity to request ARPA funding for five important projects on the MSU campus as outlined in this document.

Space Expansion to grow the MSU Nursing Program.

As Minot State University continues responding to the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic and the needs of the community and State of North Dakota, the opportunity to use ARPA funds to expand Minot State's Nursing program seems particularly timely. The availability of a well-trained and qualified Nursing workforce in North Dakota is critical to all the citizens of North Dakota. Minot State Nursing leadership believes it can grow the program at MSU but is constrained by space limitations. The department currently occupies all of the 15,900 square feet that comprises the third floor of Memorial Hall on the MSU campus. The Nursing Leadership recently proposed repurposing another floor or a portion of a floor in the building in order to expand the Nursing program for the purpose of enrolling additional students. The department is looking for an additional 9,000 square feet that will need to be remodeled to make the space appropriate for Nursing education. The department will also need additional simulators and equipment. MSU has identified two potential areas for the expansion in Memorial Hall, either of which would likely meet the requirements for the proposed expansion of the Nursing program. The estimated costs for remodeling at \$160 per square foot would be \$1,440,000. Costs for equipment and furnishings are estimated to be \$300,000. MSU's total Nursing expansion request is then \$1,740,000. Please note that increases in actual program costs from the expansion will only occur as enrollment growth occurs. Those potential additional expenses from the program growth will be paid from the additional tuition revenue and the portion of the state funding formula that is calculated from enrollment.



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Mobile Medical Unit

The second request is for a Mobile Medical Unit to be staffed by the Minot State University Department of Nursing faculty and nursing students and Student Health Clinic staff. The unit will enable MiSU's Nursing Department to expand cooperation with local health providers such as Trinity Health and First District Health in addressing gaps in health care response for the local community.

Current identifiable Gaps of Community Care in the COVID-19 Response:

- Up to a 72-hour delay for COVID-19 testing availability.
- No clinical site offering COVID-19 testing required for travel.
- Significantly limited or absent COVID-19 education- which is a critical component to patients undergoing testing or patients who test positive for COVID-19.
- Limited to no resources (outside of the Emergency Department setting) to provide assessments on symptomatic patients.
- Limited to no screening to determine if patients should seek emergency medical care.
- Limited assessment opportunities to determine if patients would qualify for early ambulatory treatments such as monoclonal antibody treatments.

Space limitations exacerbate the problem. At Minot State University, the Student Health Clinic offers medical and mental health services within a limited clinical space. The Student Health Clinic has played a newer, yet pivotal role throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by offering COVID-19 testing and support to MSU faculty, staff and students. Likewise, symptomatic patients enter the Student Health Clinic for testing, however due to space restrictions there is no available segregated space specific for COVID-19 testing of symptomatic patients. This issue is similar to medical clinics within the community, which presents a challenge in reducing community-based spread.



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The Mobile Unit can provide the following opportunities and services during the current pandemic:

- Secured physical location for testing symptomatic patients.
- Community COVID-19 testing for symptomatic patients, close contacts, and travel testing.
- Physical Health Assessments to determine if patients should be referred to emergency services or managed within the home setting.
- Screening to determine eligibility criteria for Early Ambulatory Treatment for Monoclonal Antibody Treatment (Early ambulatory treatment is critical to reduce hospitalization & death).
- Ongoing follow up and assessments to patients diagnosed with COVID-19.
- COVID-19 patient education – including the warning signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and when to seek emergency medical care.
- Increased accessibility for evaluation of COVID-19 patients to all members of the community and surrounding area.
- Reduce the excess demand endured by the Emergency Department at our local hospital Trinity Health.
- Provide additional support to our local First District Health Unit. FDHU has expressed concern and requests for additional resources to meet the needs of the community during the COVID-19 response.

*Additional Benefits:

- The Mobile Medical Response Unit will offer further clinical opportunities to nursing students due to loss of clinical site availability due to the COVID-19 response. This will ensure students continue to meet clinical hour requirements designated by the ND BON to ensure eligibility for graduation. Supplies for COVID-19 testing will be supplied by the NDDOH.
- The Mobile Unit will continue to benefit the University and Community beyond the pandemic by providing opportunities for the University to work with local health providers and offering learning opportunities for MSU Nursing students.

The estimated cost to procure and outfit the proposed mobile medical unit is \$350,000.



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Backup Generators

The third request is for funding to install backup generators for the 153,000 sq. ft. MSU Dome and the 85,000 sq. ft. MSU Student Center. In July of this year, MSU renewed its MOU with the Department of Health, Emergency Services Section to act as a medical shelter for the community and state in the event of an emergency. The same facilities would likely be used for shelter and food services in the event of a non-medical emergency for either MSU or the local community. The most significant deficiency in both facilities is the lack of a back-up generator for electricity if power were cut-off during an emergency or campus event. The Legislature recognized this need and appropriated half of the estimated costs for the project in the 2019-2021 biennium contingent upon MSU contributing the other half. Unfortunately, the University was not able to afford the required matching funds from internal campus resources and the project therefore did not occur. The available ARPA funds seem to be a good avenue in which to secure these backup generators without sacrificing critical cash reserves for MSU. An estimate for a natural gas Dome/Wellness Center generator was provided in 2018 by Prairie Engineering. They estimated the cost to be \$982,900. A Student Center generator was roughly estimated to be half that cost. Accordingly, MSU is requesting \$1,500,000 for those backup generators. Any additional annual operating expenses that occur due to the installation of this new infrastructure would be paid from non-appropriated sources of funding.

Minot State's fourth request is for various Deferred Maintenance and COVID remediation projects that may not qualify or have other available sources of funding. A concise list of those projects is as follows:

Automatic Door Openers (exterior doors)	\$ 48,000
Ion Tube replacements for bi-polar ionization equip.	\$ 15,000
Wave openers for bathroom doors	\$ 25,000
Replace carpet with vinyl flooring (Stdnt Health/Res Halls)	\$122,000
New Furniture for some residence halls	\$140,000
Drainage correction and repair Admin/Stdnt Ctr Parking	<u>\$250,000</u>
TOTAL	\$600,000



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Minot State's final request is for modernization and improved modal delivery of coursework specific to three programs as shown in the following table:

Social Work Virtual Reality Lab (Minot, Fargo, Bismarck)	\$ 41,000
Social Sciences hybrid teaching/restructured classrooms	\$115,000
Upgraded/Replacement Science Equipment	<u>\$650,000</u>
TOTAL	\$806,000

SUMMARY OF MINOT STATE UNIVERSITY REQUESTS

PRIORITY 1 - NURSING PROGRAM RENOVATION AND EQUIPMENT	\$1,740,000
PRIORITY 2 -ACADEMIC PROGRAM MODERNIZATION	\$806,000
PRIORITY 3 - EMERGENCY GENERATORS (DOME and STUDENT CENTER)	\$1,500,000
PRIORITY 4 - DEFERRED MAINTENANCE/COVID REMEDIATION PROJECTS	\$600,000
PRIORITY 5 – MOBILE MEDICAL UNIT	<u>\$350,000</u>
TOTAL	\$4,996,000

If funded, all projects would be completed prior to Dec. 31, 2026